

## BUILD SKILLS

### The Declaration of Independence • *from The Crisis, Number 1*

#### LITERARY ANALYSIS

Writers and speakers use **persuasion** to convince their audience to think or act in a certain way. A persuasive writer or speaker

- appeals to the audience's emotions and reason
- offers opinions, as well as facts, about a subject
- gives evidence to support the argument
- suggests a course of action or solution to a problem

Thomas Jefferson and Thomas Paine use persuasion in their writing to support the Revolutionary cause. Both writers appeal to the colonists' emotions. Jefferson and Paine also offer logical arguments to appeal to their audience's sense of reason.

#### READING STRATEGY

**Charged words** are often found in persuasive writing and speeches. These words produce a strong emotional response. For example, the word *tyranny* means "unfair power." This word has negative **connotations**, which means that it suggests negative ideas.

- When you identify charged words, look for support that backs up those words. Take care not to be convinced by charged words. If there is no supporting evidence, reject the argument.
- Use this chart to list charged words in the selections. Write the words' connotations, or the ideas that they suggest. Then identify the emotions caused by those words.

Selection	Word	Connotation	Emotion
The Declaration of Independence			
<i>from The Crisis, Number 1</i>			